

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 26, 27 and 29 and leaves claims 23-25, 30 and 31 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 23-25, 30 and 31.

Claims 26, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,037). As indicated above, claims 26, 27 and 29 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 26, 27 and 29 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 26, 27 and 29 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 26, 27 and 29 are taught or suggested by Tanaka or any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. The cancellation of claims 26, 27 and 29 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 26, 27 and 29 in a continuing application.

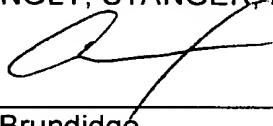
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 23-25, 30 and 31 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 23-25, 30 and 31 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 23-25, 30 and 31 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.36525CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

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